

Fulbright Hits Cuba Blunder

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Senator Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, says he believes the ill-fated Cuban invasion was a blunder for which the White House and several other agencies must share responsibility.

Senator Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, commented yesterday after his committee questioned top officials.

He said a decision would be made later whether to call military advisers before either the full committee or the Latin American Affairs Subcommittee.

"Insofar as I'm concerned, I know all I want to know," Senator Fulbright told reporters after a four-hour briefing by Allen W. Dulles, director of the super-secret CIA, and Richard M. Bissell, Jr., Mr. Dulles' deputy director for plans, who reportedly played a major role in the CIA's part in the invasion by Cuban exiles.

Senator Fulbright said the testimony confirmed his prior conviction that "the operation as a whole was a mistake" for which the White House, the Defense Department, the CIA and the State Department share "a collective responsibility."

Senator Fulbright is known to have warned the administration against it when he learned of the planned invasion.

The Senator said that Secretary of State Rusk, who briefed the committee Monday, will return this afternoon for a further briefing on the world situation, including the crisis in Cuba and current developments in Cuba.

One member of Senator Fulbright's committee, Senator Church, Democrat of Idaho, reported that the invasion by Cuban exiles was marked by "speedily conceived military planning."

"A dual mistake was made," Senator Church told newsmen. "Communism can not be shot down in Latin America; it must be shown up, and this should be the object of our

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Senator Church said he assumed "our military advisers are involved there, unless the CIA is involved in military strategy."

But Senator Fulbright refused to pinpoint responsibility on any branch of the Government, taking the position that "the operation as a whole was a mistake."

"I think it is quite obvious that mistakes were made," the chairman said. "It was a collective responsibility."

And he said he may support again, as he has in the past, a pending bill to set up a joint Senate-House committee as a watchdog group to oversee CIA's operations on a confidential basis.

Meanwhile, Senator Mansfield, Democrat of Montana, the Senate majority leader, described the closed-door Senate committee hearings as "in the nature of an inquiry."

He said Congress has no plans to "investigate" the invasion.

In an investigation you are looking for scapegoats," he said. "In an inquiry you are looking for facts."